

c.) Remarks:

In response to the requirement for an election of species, applicant provisionally elects the species shown in Figures 3-5.

Although applicant has provisionally elected the species of Figures 3-5, applicant respectfully traverses the requirement for election. In support of the traverse it is submitted that the body member 1 as shown in Figures 1 and 2 is an integral part of all of the remaining figures. That is, the base 2, the flanking flanges 4 and 5, the slots 6 and 7, and the extension 8 are included in all of the figures. The difference between Figures 1 and 2 and the remaining figures is in the kind of clamp means which are accommodated in the openings in the flanges. In a case where, as here, a structural characteristic is common to all of the figures, it is not believed that an election of one group of figures over others is appropriate.

Applicant also traverses the examiner's conclusion that none of the claims of this application is generic. Since the structural characteristics of the apparatus as shown in Figures 1 and 2 are common to all of the other figures (with the exception of the specific clamp members) it is respectfully submitted that claims 21-23 are generic to all of the figures.

Claims readable on the elected embodiment are claims 21-23, 25, 26, 31, and 37. Claims 25, 26, 31, and 37 are generic to figures 3-8.

Claim 21 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the term "path" and to orient the extension and the notch relative to the base. Claim 23 has been amended to avoid redundancy. No new matter has been added.

It is submitted that this application now is in condition for further action on the merits.

The Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 50-2676.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry M. Howley
By his attorney,

Registration No. 17,452
John K. McCulloch
989-792-2500

CUSTOMER NO: 000042083